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in the tables published in the paper, the authors say, must be accepted with caution. Some are more reliable than others, but none is correct to a foot, and many investigations will have to be completed before altitudes can be determined with a greater degree of accuracy than at present.

"All observations are liable to error; no telescope is perfect, no level is entirely trustworthy, no instrumental graduations are exact, and no observer is infallible. . . . Errors of measurement, however, can be greatly reduced and rendered practically negligible, if a peak be observed with a good theodolite on several occasions and from different stations."

Table XIV shows that 887 peaks have been discovered in the Himalaya and in Tibet exceeding 20,000' feet in height. Analyses of the great peaks of the Himalaya and Karakoram are given in a series of tables and charts show the geographical position of peaks of various magnitudes and the outlines of some of the great mountains and ranges.

The Topography and Geology of the Peninsula of Sinai (South-eastern portion). By **W. F. Hume**, Superintendent Egyptian Geological Survey. 280 pp. Maps, Photographs and Index. Survey Department, Cairo, 1906.

This large octavo is a valuable contribution to geography. Scarcely any traveller has examined the southeastern part of the Sinai peninsula and still fewer have mapped any portion of it. The Admiralty sheets, of course, correctly outline the coasts, but our general knowledge of the region has been superficial. It is almost entirely a desert of rock, gravel and boulder, and many arid valleys, plateaus and ridges, the whole forming a scene of desolation. Yet here and there, where, after sudden thunder storms, the waters rush down the main valleys, are found some fertile spots, oases of palms, seyal trees and rushes making pictures full of life and beauty. The inhabitants of these fertile spots have a good reputation for honesty and independence of character. They are active climbers, keen sportsmen, and the necessity of finding water and camel food brings the natives into close acquaintance with every recess of their hills.

Over half the work is given to a detailed description of the geography and topography of Eastern Sinai and to extended notes on the botanical, zoological and economic features of the region. Six chapters describe the geology, and the appendices contain detailed reports on the meteorological observations and the structure of the igneous region, with lists of plants and previous literature. The work will be welcomed as authoritative on all phases of the Southeastern part of the peninsula. The maps are noted in *New Maps* in this number.

Gesammelte Abhandlungen aus den Gebieten der Meteorologie und des Erdmagnetismus. Von **Wilhelm von Bezold**. viii and 448 pp., 66 Diagrams and 3 Maps. Friedrich Vieweg & Son, Brunswick, 1906.

Scientific specialists always welcome the collections of the lectures and papers of authoritative fellow-workers, because it is not so convenient to refer to them when they are scattered through various publications. It is gratifying that the literary output of so eminent a meteorologist as the late Prof. Dr. Bezold was put together by the lamented author the year before his death and published in this handsome volume. The collection opens with Bezold's "Beobachtungen über die Dämmerung," published in 1864, which spread the author's fame as a meteorologist far beyond his own country. Then follow three lectures upon storms, in which the author discusses the frequency and intensity of storms in their relation

to sun spots. Of the 20 papers in the volume, 16 relate to meteorological topics and the 4 remaining papers deal with Terrestrial Magnetism, in which the author penetrates far into the exploration of this branch of science and discusses the theories and results which the study has made prominent. The volume has already been widely welcomed by specialists in these departments of research.

La Grande Ile de Madagascar. Par Marius-Ary Leblond. 320 pp., numerous Illustrations, Appendices and Bibliography. Librairie Ch. Delagrave, Paris, 1907.

The author brought to the composition of this book qualifications that are not often combined in a single writer. His special studies of Madagascar and his travels in that island have made for him the reputation in France of being one of the authoritative writers on the colony. His attainments also in geology and ethnography are of no mean order; and as might be expected of the editor of the *Revue des Deux-Mondes*, he has given to his book a literary flavour that is not very common in geographical writings. Another somewhat unusual characteristic of the book is the fact that though it is based upon the author's own observations, there is no intimation, except in the preface, that he ever saw Madagascar. The work is entirely objective. Mr. Leblond's literary skill and vivid imagination make the book delightful reading; but it is much more than that, for he saw things not merely in their superficial aspects, and he has produced a very informing work, saved from all dullness by the skill of an accomplished man of letters.

He describes the various natural regions of the island, the races, their manners, work, amusements, culture, arts, beliefs and superstitions, and, in conclusion, sketches the natural resources of Madagascar and shows how fully they meet the actual requirements of the people. The many photographs are chiefly of natives, a good black map shows the relief of the land and the notes are reserved for the appendices. The bibliography contains many titles, chiefly recent.

Untersuchungen zur Geographie der Odyssee. Von Dr. Gustav Lang. 122 pp., 5 Illustrations, 4 Maps, and Index. Verlag der Hofbuchhandlung. Friedrich Gutsch, Karlsruhe, 1905. (Price, M. 3.)

One of the recent contributions to the probably insoluble question whether Leucas island, in the Ionian Archipelago, is identical with the Homeric island of Ithaca, as has been maintained by Dörpfeld and other archæologists. Dr. Lang dissents from the conclusions reached by Dörpfeld, which were based largely upon his own examination of the geographical features of Leucas.

Neuf Ans à Madagascar. Par Général Gallieni. xiv and 372 pp., 72 Illustrations, Map in Colours, and Appendix. Hachette et Cie., Paris, 1908. (Price, 25 frs.)

One of the greatest recent events in French colonial history was the pacification and organization of Madagascar by Gen. Gallieni, who was Governor-General of the island and its dependencies from September, 1896, to November, 1905. This book contains the General's own summary of that monumental work. Gallieni entered Madagascar when its condition was chaotic and the first thing to do was to restore peace and order. Both the military and the civil power were in his hands, and as fast as peace was restored in one district the work of political and